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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04567 220909Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01
SY-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 H-01
/036 W
----------081083 221533Z /53
R 220818Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6345
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 04567

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: JA KS US PINS PDIP
SUBJECT: JSP BREAKS STORY ON DEFECTING ROK DIPLOMAT TO U.S.

REF: 77 TOKYO 18422; 77 SEOUL 10054

1. DURING PAST WEEK JSP DIET MEMBER TSUNEHIKO ANTAKU ANNOUNCED TO PRESS THAT IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR KEE WON LEE OF LOCAL ROK EMBASSY HAD ABRUPTLY RESIGNED AND SECRETLY TRAVELLED TO U.S. LEE, ANTAKU ASSERTED, WAS FEARFUL OF KCIA AND WAS KEEPING HIS PRESENT ADDRESS IN U.S. SECRET. ANTAKU CONCLUDED WITH HOPE THAT LEE WOULD EVENTUALLY TESTIFY ON ILLEGAL ASPECTS OF JAPAN-ROK ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

2. ANTAKU'S STATEMENT TO REPORTERS REPRESENTED FIRST PUBLICITY THAT LEE'S SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE (REFTELS) HAS RECEIVED, BUT THUS FAR MEDIA HAVE FAILED TO PURSUE STORY. ACCORDING TO FONOFF NE ASIA DIVISION SENIOR OFFICIAL, GOJ HAS TAKEN LINE THAT ITS OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENT WAS LIMITED TO FACT THAT ON NOVEMBER 25 ROK EMBASSY
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FORMALLY NOTIFIED FONOFF THAT LEE HAD COMPLETED HIS DUTIES IN JAPAN AND HAD DEPARTED. OFFICIAL OBSERVED THAT TO BEST OF FONOFF'S KNOWLEDGE, LEE HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY SENSITIVE DUTIES AT ROK EMBASSY WHICH HELD POTENTIAL FOR UNUSUAL POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT. HE DOUBTED THAT JSP AND ANTAKU, WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN PRESSING GOJ TO CONTACT FORMER ROK OFFICIALS KIM HYUNG WOOK AND

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KIM JAE KWON IN U.S., WOULD SUCCEED IN MAKING MUCH OF
MATTER. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, POLITICAL DEFECTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0484
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780335/aaaabdjz.tel
Line Count: 64
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, NOFORN
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TAGS: PINS, PDIP, JA, KS, US, (KEE WON LEE), (ANTAKU, TSUNEHIKO)
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Type: TE
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